Promotion of IFS Officers

3163. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have amended the promotion rule from 'Merit Based' to 'Seniority Based' regarding promotion of Grade-I IFS (B) officers recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the relevant rule has been notified, if so, the details thereof;

(d) if answer to part (a) is no, whether it is a fact that Government has DPC recently for promotion to Grade-I IFS (B) Officers without following the existing rules; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith corrective measures Government proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Foreign Service, Branch B (Recruitment, Cadre, Seniority and Promotion) Rules, 1964 and the Indian Foreign Service, Branch B (Promotion to Grade I Regulations), 1975 have been amended to replace 'merit' by 'selection' in accordance with the extant DOP&T guidelines.

(c) The above amendments have been notified in the Gazette of India on March 4, 2005.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Recovery of EPF Dues from Private and Public Sector Undertakings

3164. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of Employees Provident Fund is due from Private and Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of defaulting companies and the amount due against each as on 31st March, 2005;

(c) whether there is a proposal to amend the provisions of the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act to avoid litigation in recovery of EPF dues from defaulting undertakings; and